Red Sea trade. This paper examines the financial base of *amir Makka*, the ruler of Mecca, Jeddah and the other cities of Hijaz, in an attempt to analyze the conditions of international commerce and the relationships among pilgrimages, commerce and politics around Hijaz during the Bahri Mamluk period. The contemporary historical sources used in this study include *rihlat al-hajj* (pilgrimage itineraries), chronicles of Mecca, and related topographical and biographical sources.

*Amir Makka* evidently played a religious role judging from his dress, appearance and residence. His activities ranged from the performance of many kinds of religious ceremony such as the ceremony of the new moon, the call to Evening Prayer and meeting of the *rakb al-hajj* (pilgrimage caravan), to secular activities such as the maintenance of public order by the military, bestowal of *hasab* (the right of escort) to VIPs, appointment and dismissal of *qaḍi* (judges), or *kharij* (priests), levying taxation and so on. Fiscally, *amir Makka* depended on 1) revenue from customs duties levied on merchants and pilgrims, 2) revenue from taxes levied on construction work in Mecca, and 3) additional cash and food supplies from *iqṭā`* (dues) granted by foreign powers as remuneration for safe passage of their pilgrims.

As for international trade, economic prosperity in Mecca, Jeddah and Hijaz as a whole had depended mainly on economic activity related to the seasonal pilgrimage until the middle of the fourteenth century, and it follows that this movement of people and goods during the annual pilgrimage also formed the fiscal base for *amir Makka*’s activities. However toward the middle of that century, the flow of trade on the Jeddah-Tur route began to pick up as a part of the Red Sea trade, which took preeminence over the previously favored Aden-Aydhab route. This new route raised the importance of Jeddah as an entrepôt for the Red Sea trade vaulting Hijaz into the world of international commerce. However, the Meccan Sharifate gradually lost its autonomy in the wake of escalating military and political intervention by such foreign powers as the Mamluk and Rasulid dynasties.